Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment After Final Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant submits that this Amendment presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Furthermore, applicant believes that consideration of this Amendment could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal.

Claims 16 and 20 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 4-5, 7-10 and 16-22 are now presented for examination.

Claims 1, 7 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stepp, III (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,463). Further, claims 4-5 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stepp. Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Stepp.

Stepp discloses a system for actively cooling an electronic device. See Stepp at Abstract. Stepp further discloses a controller 320 that is coupled to temperature sensors 314 and cooling fans 316. The controller 320 monitors the temperature of components 302-312 through the temperature sensors 314. See Stepp at col. 6, ll. 14-19 and Figure 3. The controller 320 is coupled to cooling fans 316 via FAN C and FAN M connections. The FAN C connections are used to control the rotational speed of each cooling fan 316. See Stepp at col. 6, ll. 22-24. The FAN M connections are used to monitor each cooling fan 316 to detect failure of a cooling fan. See Stepp at col. 6, ll. 56-58.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a central management agent to transmit signals to control each of the first and second sets of field replaceable units via the first

and second management buses. Applicant submits that there is no disclosure or suggestion is Stepp of a central management agent transmitting signals control to **both** the temperature sensors and the fans. Particularly, Stepp does not disclose or suggest transmitting control signals to the temperature sensors. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Stepp. Claims 3-5 depend from claim 1 and include additional features. Therefore, claims 3-5 are also patentable over Stepp.

Claim 16 recites a central management agent having failure detection logic to detect a failure of the temperature sensors, and the fan trays. Applicant submits that Stepp does not disclose or suggest detecting a failure of temperature sensors. Stepp only discloses detecting a failure in one of the cooling fans. Thus, claim 16 is patentable over Stepp. Because claims 17-22 depend from claim 16 and include additional features, claims 17-22 are also patentable over Stepp.

Claims 8-10 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stepp, in view of Holland (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,669). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Stepp in view of Holland.

Holland discloses a fault tolerant disk array control system. See Holland at Abstract. However, Holland does not disclose or suggest a central management agent transmitting signals control to temperature sensors and fans, or detecting a failure of temperature sensors.

As discussed above, Stepp does not disclose such features. Since neither Stepp nor Holland disclose or suggest a central management agent transmitting signals control to temperature sensors and fans, or detecting a failure of temperature sensors, any

combination of Stepp and Holland would not disclose the features. Therefore, the present claims are patentable over Stepp in view of Holland.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stepp in view of Jewett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,251). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Stepp in view of Jewett.

Jewett discloses a computer system with a fault tolerant configuration. See Jewett at Abstract. However, Jewett does not disclose or suggest a central management agent transmitting signals control to temperature sensors and fans, or detecting a failure of temperature sensors.

As discussed above, Stepp does not disclose such features. Since neither Stepp nor Jewett disclose or suggest a central management agent transmitting signals control to temperature sensors and fans, or detecting a failure of temperature sensors, any combination of Stepp and Jewett would also not disclose the features. Therefore, the present claims are patentable over Stepp in view of Jewett.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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